

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 EUR-12 DEAE-00 SNM-05  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00  
EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01  
OMB-01 AGRE-00 SAA-01 /127 W  
-----120797 130651Z/10

R 121215Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9026  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 5653

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, EAID, AF, US  
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER TARAKI FOLLOWING  
PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

1. SUMMARY: DURING A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TARAKI ON JULY 12, FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF MY CREDENTIALS, HE ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS REGARDS TO PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER. TARAKI SAID HE WISHED TO ASSURE THE PRESIDENT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WISHED TO HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THAT HE HOPED THE UNITED STATES WOULD ASSIST HIS GOVERNMENT IN IMPROVING THE WELLBEING OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. HE STATED HE WOULD STAND BY HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH ASSERTED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO MAINTAIN AFGHANISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD PURSUE A POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT. AFGHANISTAN, HE SAID, WANTS GOOD RELATIONS NOT ONLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION, BUT WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN. HE COMMENTED HE HOPED IRAN WOULD ALSO ASSIST THE DRA IN ITS ECONOMIC

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DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH TARAKI LOOKS OLDER THAN HIS 60 YEARS, I FOUND HIM ALERT, DIRECT, ARTICULATE, BUT SOFT SPOKEN. MY BRIEF MEETING WITH TARAKI WAS PHOTOGRAPHED THROUGHOUT. END SUMMARY

2. IN VIEW OF THE NEWSOM VISIT ON JULY 13, THE DRA HAS DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITE THE PRESENTATION OF MY CREDENTIALS, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE MORNING OF JULY 12,

I.E., TWO DAYS AFTER MY ARRIVAL. THE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY WAS PRECEDED THE PREVIOUS DAY BY A CALL ON THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, MOHAMMAD WALI MANDOZAI, AND A COURTESY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN.

3. FOLLOWING THE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, TARAKI, ACCCOMPANIED ONLY BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN, MET WITH ME FOR A BRIEF DISCUSSION. AT THE OUTSET, TARAKI WELCOMED ME AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MY ASSIGNMENT HERE WOULD RESULT IN AN EXPANDED AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

4. SINCE TARAKI SEEMED TO AWAIT SOME REMARKS FROM ME, I MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- I SAID I WAS HONORED TO BE CHOSEN BY PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE DRA.  
-- ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, I WANTED TO ASSURE THE PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL THAT MY GOVERNMENT WISHES TO WORK WITH HIS TO PURSUE POLICIES WHICH SERVE OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS AND ENHANCE AND STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.  
-- THE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THE U.S. HAS OPERATED AND WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE ARE VERY SIMPLE: NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, MUTUAL RESPECT, AND MUTUAL BENEFIT.  
-- U.S. INTERESTS IN AFGHANISTAN ARE TO SUPPORT ITS INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND ABILITY TO DETERMINE ITS OWN  
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DESTINY. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A POLICY ENHANCES REGIONAL STABILITY, PERMITTING THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA TO DEVOTE MAXIMUM EFFORTS TO DEVELOPMENT.

-- WE ALSO HAVE A HUMANITARIAN INTEREST WHICH IS DIRECTED TOWARD IMPROVING THE WELLBEING OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE.  
-- WE ALSO HOPE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE DRA TO REDUCE AND, HOPEFULLY, ERADICATE POPPY CULTIVATION AND TO INCREASE AWARENESS EVERYWHERE THAT ALL HUMAN BEINGS HAVE BASIC POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL RIGHTS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE VIOLATED.  
-- I SAID THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD NOTED WITH GREAT INTEREST PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT TARAKI REGARDING AFGHANISTAN'S INTENT TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT, NONALIGNED, AND NON-SUBSERVIENT TO ANY OUTSIDE POWER. WE ALSO NOTED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAD STATED IT WANTED TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS NOT ONLY WITH THE USSR, BUT WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN. WE, IN THE U.S., CONSIDER GOOD RELATIONS WITH TEHRAN AND ISLAMABAD AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE DRA'S EXTERNAL POLICY.  
-- WE ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE DRA'S RESPECT FOR AND COMMITMENT TO THE UN CHARTER AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.  
-- FINALLY, I INDICATED THAT, IN DEALING WITH PRESIDENT TARAKI'S GOVERNMENT, I WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO

ENSURE THAT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN A FRIENDLY, PROFESSIONAL, AND CANDID MANNER. I HAD COME WITH AN OPEN HEART AND AN OPEN MIND, AND HOPED TO REPORT AND INTERPRET ACCURATELY TO WASHINGTON HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES.

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LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /127 W  
-----120968 130651Z/23

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 5653

5. TARAKI LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO MY COMMENTS, NODDING HIS HEAD AT CERTAIN POINTS. HE BEGAN HIS RESPONSE BY ASKING ME TO CONVEY HIS WARMEST GOOD WISHES TO THE PRESIDENT, AND TO ASSURE THE PRESIDENT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WANTED THE BEST OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. GIVEN ITS IMPOVERISHED CONDITION, AFGHANISTAN NEEDED THE HELP OF THE U.S., AS WELL AS THE SOVIET UNION, TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. HE WISHED TO ASSURE THE U.S. THAT HE WOULD STAND BY HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS RELATING TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENT TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED. HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS AND THEREFORE EXPECTED OTHERS NOT TO INTERFERE IN AFGHANISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE DRA ALSO WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN. INDEED, HE HOPED IRAN -- WHICH IS A WEALTHY COUNTRY BECAUSE OF ITS OIL

RESOURCES-- WOULD ASSIST AFGHANISTAN IN ITS DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS. HE WISHED ME SUCCESS IN WORKING TOWARD DEEPENING AND IMPROVING U.S.-AFGHAN RELATIONS, AND AGAIN ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS PERSONAL REGARDS TO THE PRESIDENT.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TARAKI LOOKS OLDER THAN HIS 60 YEARS AND GIVES

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THE IMPRESSION OF BEING UNROBUST, I FOUND HIM ALERT AND ARTICULATE,  
THOUGH SOFT SPOKEN. I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE HE WAS SINCERE IN HOPING

FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW, THE U.S.  
CAN PROVIDE USEFUL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. BEYOND THAT,  
ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONED, MUST LIE THE REALIZATION THAT GOOD RELATIONS  
WITH US ADDS LEGITIMACY TO HIS GOVERNMENT, BOTH FROM INTERNAL AND  
EXTERNAL PERSPECTIVES. WHAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, OF COURSE, IS WHETHER

THE TARAKI GOVERNMENT DOES TAKE ASSIDUOUSLY CULTIVATE GOOD RE-  
LATIONS WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN, AND WHETHER HIS GOVERNMENT WILL BE  
SUCCESSFUL IN WARDING OFF SUBSERVIENCE TO THE SOVIET UNION.

7. INCIDENTALLY, I HAVE THE UNIQUE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST  
AMBASSADOR TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE DRA. THE DRILL WAS WITH

-  
OUT FLAW AND INCLUDED REVIEW OF AN IMPRESSIVE HONOR GUARD AT THE  
HALL OF THE PEOPLE, WHERE I WAS RECEIVED.

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## Message Attributes

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